

MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
17 MARCH 1964

INDEX

	<u>Page</u>
I. ADMINISTRATION	
1. Approval of Minutes	1
2. Date of Next Meeting	1
3. Appointment of New Member to Old Georgetown Board of Architectural Consultants	1
4. Fiscal Year 1965 Budget	2
II. SUBMISSIONS-REVIEWS-INTERVIEWS	
1. Smithsonian Institution - National Zoological Park, Revised Development Plans, Phase II	2
2. National Capital Planning Commission - Land- marks Preservation Study, Proposed Building Inventory, District of Columbia	2-3
3. Treasury Department, Bureau of the Mint - St. Louis Centennial Medal - Proposed Design	3-4
4. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, National Capital Region	
a. Garfield Park, F St. & Va. Ave. between 1st and 3rd Sts., S.E.-Proposed Development Plan	4
b. Custis-Lee Mansion, Restoration of Flower Garden	4
c. South Boundary Channel Bridge, Columbia Island Proposed Design	4-5
d. Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials-New Stair Railings	5
5. District of Columbia Government,	
a. Department of Licenses and Inspections Shipstead-Luce Act	
(1) Watergate Development, 2500 Va. Ave. N.W.-Elevation Dwg & Materials	6-7
(2) S.L.64-93, 700 17th St., N.W.-New Office Bldg-Revised Design	6
(3) S.L. 64-99, N.W. Corner of Va. Ave. & 22d St., N.W.-New Apartment House	6
(4) S.L. 64-100, 500 N.Capitol St., N.W.- New Office Building	6-7
(5) S.L. 64-92, 415 12th St., N.W.-New Office Bldg.-Revised Design	7
Old Georgetown Act, P.L.808/81st C.	7

- b. Department of Highways and Traffic -
Traffic Signs on Theodore Roosevelt Birdge
and Approaches-Proposed Designs 7-8

- 6. National Capital Planning Commission
 - a. Navy Yard Redevelopment Plan 8-9
 - b. Virginia Ave., N.W.-Proposed Modification
of Right-of-Way 9-10

III. LEGISLATION-Requests for Reports on Pending Bills by Committees of Congress and the Bureau of the Budget

- 1. H.J.Res.793, 88th Congress 10
- 2. H.J.Res.934, 88th Congress 10

MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
17 March 1964

The Commission met, pursuant to notice, in executive session at 10:15 a.m. with William Walton, Chairman, presiding.

Present were: Members: William Walton
Gordon Bunshaft
Burnham Kelly
Theodore Roszak
Aline Saarinen
Hideo Sasaki

Staff: L.R. Wilson, Secretary
C.H. Atherton, Asst. Secretary
C.L. Martin, Counsel
Leone Vialpando, Recorder

I. ADMINISTRATION

1. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Sasaki suggested that the language of the second paragraph on page 6 of the minute regarding the discussion of a proposed design for the National Reserve Officers Association building did not properly convey the conclusions of the Commission.

After hearing the Chairman's letter to the Director of the Redevelopment Land Agency, the members agreed that the minute should be rewritten to express the statements made therein. Thereafter, the minutes were approved subject to the correction recommended.

2. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Commission was set for April 15th at 9:30 a.m., with an executive session on April 14th at 10:15 a.m.

✓ 3. Appointment of New Member to Old Georgetown Board of Architectural Consultants

The Assistant Secretary recommended to the Commission that Mr. Frank Cole, architect, be appointed to the Board to replace Mr. Gerald Purcell, whose term had expired. Mr. Cole had indicated informally that he would be glad to serve on the Board if appointed.

Mr. Cole's nomination was accepted and the Commission approved his appointment for a period of three years.

4. Fiscal Year 1965 Budget

The Chairman reported that the Committee on Appropriations had recommended to the Congress that the budget of \$120,000 be approved for the Commission of Fine Arts for Fiscal Year 1965. This sum represented a reduction of \$41,000 from the estimate approved by the Bureau of the Budget.

The members agreed that the Commission should not appeal the cut in appropriations to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

II. SUBMISSIONS-REVIEWS-INTERVIEWS

1. Smithsonian Institution

National Zoological Park - Revised Development Plans, Phase II

The members examined drawings and a site plan for a number of buildings proposed for construction in Phase Two of redevelopment plans for the Zoo. It was noted that buildings fell into two principal types - those which were freestanding and constructed with flat or pitched roofs and those built into the sides of hills so that the roofs would serve as viewing terraces. Within the freestanding type it was proposed that the buildings with flat roofs be constructed of concrete block, whereas those with pitched roofs would be of natural stone.

In their discussion the members brought up the fact that the program for the redevelopment of the entire Zoo presented a unique opportunity to develop a uniformity of design and thereby avoid the hodge-podge of building types so frequently found in zoos throughout the world. They thought insufficient attention had been directed toward achieving this important aspect. They questioned the necessity of constructing some buildings of natural stone and some of concrete block masonry, and agreed that if the reason for this was financial considerations it would be more desirable to build fewer buildings of one material and one style.

No action was taken pending a conference with the architects and representatives of the Smithsonian on the following day.

2. National Capital Planning Commission

Landmarks Preservation Study, Proposed Building Inventory, District of Columbia

Mrs. James Rowe, Chairman, Mr. W.C. Dutton, Director, and Miss Mary Small, Special Assistant, of the National Capital Planning Commission met with the Commission.

Mrs. Rowe explained that the Planning Commission had been concerned for sometime about the care and preservation of historic and architectural landmarks in the District of Columbia. In this connection, the Planning Commission had secured a report from Mr. Carl Feiss as to suggested methods of protecting such landmarks. However, the Feiss report, which had recommended that the Fine Arts Commission be reorganized and assume the function of a Landmarks and Fine Arts Commission, was not approved by the Planning Commission. It had been suggested that a complete inventory of historic landmarks in the District be undertaken by a joint landmarks committee composed of members of the Commission of Fine Arts and the Planning Commission. Mrs. Rowe suggested that this inventory of all historic and architecturally significant buildings be made as a first step to alert the public to the existence of these important landmarks while a concurrent study of methods of preservation was undertaken. She pointed out that there was no official listing at the present time, although some 10 or so unofficial lists had been prepared by various groups and individuals from time to time.

The members of the Commission all agreed that some action should be undertaken at once, but there was no general agreement as to how to proceed. Some members suggested that an expert of national stature should make the survey and prepare recommendations and that funds should be sought from a private foundation to underwrite the project. Other members were of the opinion the Commission should give its support to the proposal that an inventory be made and urge that further consideration be given to seeking private funds.

After the discussion it was concluded that the Chairman be delegated authority to work with Mrs. Rowe to develop the various proposals into a course of action.

3. Treasury Department, Bureau of the Mint

✓ St. Louis Centennial Medal - Proposed Design

Proposed designs of the obverse and reverse of a medal commemorating the two-hundredth anniversary of the founding of the St. Louis community were examined.

The obverse consisted of a design patterned after a fleur-de-lis with the words "St. Louis. Founded 1764" around the rim. The reverse portrayed a representation of the gateway arch, designed by Eero Saarinen on the grounds of the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial in St. Louis, enclosing the words "St. Louis Bicentennial 1964-1966", and beneath it three lines of waves.

The members thought the lettering on both sides of the medal was

out of scale and a poor style. They also thought that the profile of the gateway arch on the medal was distorted and needed restudy and refinement. It was also suggested that the lettering on the reverse side be placed below the arch rather than being enclosed by it.

The Chairman was authorized to send a letter setting forth the Commission's recommendations.

EXHIBIT A

4. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, National Capital Region

a. Garfield Park, F Street and Virginia Avenue Between 1st and 3rd Streets, S.E. - Proposed Development Plan

A scale model, drawings and a site photograph of a proposed Redevelopment plan for the 7 1/2 acre park were examined. The park is located immediately adjacent to a leg of the Southeast Freeway and an effort was made in the development plan to overcome this by a dense planting screen along the freeway boundary. Another proposal was a new series of paths made necessary by the closing of G Street and Second Street, S.E. Two kinds of paving material were shown.

After examining the model the members approved the plan with the suggestion that all paving be of a single material.

The Chairman was authorized to send a letter giving the Commission's views.

EXHIBIT B

b. Custis-Lee Mansion, Restoration of Flower Garden

Plans, drawings, and photographs were examined relating to a plan to restore the flower garden on the southeast side of the mansion to its appearance in 1861, the garden on the northwest side having already been restored.

The members' only objection to the plan was the inclusion of a five-foot board fence enclosing the garden. It was explained that the fence was included because it was shown in plans and engravings of the garden as it existed in 1860. The members thought that in this case historical accuracy should give way to aesthetic considerations and recommended that a boxwood hedge or black wrought iron fence be substituted.

The Chairman was authorized to send a letter giving the Commission's recommendations.

EXHIBIT C

c. South Boundary Channel Bridge, Columbia Island-Proposed Design

Drawings were examined of a proposed design for a bridge crossing

the Boundary Channel and connecting Columbia Island with the Virginia shore. The bridge would be a part of the system of approach roads to the Theodore Roosevelt Bridge. The design shown was of a low profile bridge without arches supported on concrete buttresses. The steepness of the curve of the bridge was thought to preclude an arched structure.

The members had no objection to the general layout of the bridge, but suggested that its appearance would be improved if the stone flanking walls were omitted at both ends and the bridge treated as a continuation of the roadway.

The Chairman was authorized to send a letter setting forth the Commission's recommendations. EXHIBIT D

✓ d. Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials - New Stair Railings

The Commission was asked for its advice on a proposal to construct handrailings on the steps of the Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials. Drawings submitted showed the railings located along the walls flanking the steps or in line with them. This location was in accordance with the Commission's previous recommendation that if railings were absolutely necessary they should be located as inconspicuously as possible.

After examining the plans and photographs the members concluded the railings would detract from the appearance of the memorials no matter where they were placed and should not be approved by the Commission.

The Chairman was authorized to send a letter setting forth the Commission's recommendations. EXHIBIT E

5. District of Columbia Government

a. Department of Licenses and Inspections

✓ Shipstead-Luce Act

(1) Watergate Development, 2500 Virginia Avenue, N.W. - Elevation Drawings and Materials

The members examined revised elevation drawings of Building No. 2 in the project and samples of concrete aggregates, and other building materials.

It was generally agreed that the architect had accepted the Commission's recommendations regarding the height of the building and had attempted to simplify the elevations. It was noted that the number of types of ballustrades had been reduced. The members resolved to question the architect about the roof structures inasmuch as no scale drawings of the details had been submitted.

No action was taken pending a conference with the architects on

the following day.

✓ (2) S.L. 64-93, 700 17th St., N.W.-New Office Building-
Revised Design

A revised design for the building to be located opposite the Executive Office Building on the southwest corner of Pennsylvania Avenue and Seventeenth Street was examined. The revised design attempted to carry out the Commission's principal recommendations at the January meeting - that the two additional stories on the 110-foot portion of the building be set back a distance of one bay on both G Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, and that the 17th Street facade be in alignment with the buildings south of it.

The revised drawings did comply with these recommendations. However, the members questioned several aspects of the design such as use of both a deep arcade and recession of the top story in the same structure. The general conclusion was that the changes which had been recommended had improved the general massing of the building, but that the overall design did not measure up to the standard which should exist in such an important location.

No action was taken pending a conference with the architect on the following day.

✓ (3) S.L. 64-99, Northwest Corner of Virginia Avenue and
22d Street, N.W. - New Apartment House

Plans and a rendering of a proposed design for a 9 story apartment building to be located on a site near the new World Health Organization Building and the Columbia Plaza Project were examined.

The members agreed that the design was undistinguished and was not in keeping with the character of the surrounding area. They concluded that the design should not be approved.

The Chairman was authorized to prepare a letter setting forth the Commission's views. EXHIBIT F

✓ (4) S.L. 64-100, 500 North Capitol Street, N.W. - New
Office Building

The Commission's advice was requested on a proposed design for an 8-story office building to be located on North Capitol Street facing Union Station Plaza.

The design was a pre-cast concrete structure consisting of an arcade on the ground level with three bays set back, a heavy pierced

cornice and faceted window panels.

It was noted that the commercial character of the design was a departure from the theme of other buildings along Louisiana and Constitution Avenues which appeared to recognize the special nature of the location by some elements of monumentality. Moreover, the members objected to many of the details of the design such as the setback of certain bays, the pierced cornice line, etc.

The members disapproved the design and authorized the Chairman to send a letter setting forth the Commission's views. EXHIBIT G

(5) S.L. 64-92, 415 12th Street, N.W. - New Office Building - Revised Design

Preparatory to meeting with the architect on the following day, the Commission examined drawings and a rendering of a revised design for a 12-story office building to be located on the northwest corner of 12th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. The Commission had reviewed a prior design for this building at the September 1963 meeting and had recommended that it be further studied, particularly the east elevation which they believed should be made regular in form and treated in a manner consistent with the other elevations.

Examination of the revised drawings showed no fundamental changes to the design except the enlargement of the penthouse floor which eliminated a setback previously shown.

The members agreed that the design was unacceptable, but reserved final action pending the architect's presentation on the following day.

Old Georgetown Act, Public Law 808, 81st Congress

The Assistant Secretary reported the actions taken, after the recommendations of the Old Georgetown Board of Architects, on the applications forwarded for review by the District of Columbia Department of Licenses and Inspections. The report was dated 17 March 1964, and comprised Appendix 2 of the Order of Business.

After studying the individual cases the Commission confirmed the favorable recommendations. Confirmation was also given in the following cases: O.G. 64-226, 1901 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W., Dart Drug Store, and O.G. 64-218, 1424 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W., Morris Cohen.

b. Department of Highways and Traffic

Traffic Signs on Theodore Roosevelt Bridge and Approaches - Proposed Designs

The members were shown a number of designs for directional signs to be placed on the bridge and approaches to it. It was explained that because the bridge is to be part of the interstate highway system the signs are required to conform to certain standards established for the sizes of lettering and colors. Therefore, the primary concern of the Highway Department had been the manner of placement because of their location on a memorial bridge and near the Lincoln Memorial. The Highway Department had employed a consultant to redesign the sign supports in an effort to find a means of reducing the impact of the signs.

The members' primary concern was the large trussed sign support which would span the 110-foot roadway on the bridge as it crosses South Island. This sign would give directions for traffic entering and leaving the bridge. They thought the supporting pipe standards 18" in diameter would appear excessively heavy in relation to the bridge railing. It was suggested that two smaller signs staggered in location be substituted for the single sign spanning the entire six lanes of the bridge. It was also suggested that a solid panel, finished on both sides and supported by a simple steel truss, be used instead of individual panels facing one direction with exposed brackets in the rear.

No action was taken pending a conference with representatives of the Highway Department on the following day.

6. National Capital Planning Commission

✓ a. Navy Yard Redevelopment Plan

Mr. W. C. Dutton, Director, Mr. Robert L. Plavnick and Mr. Steven Klaus, staff members of the National Capital Planning Commission, presented a preliminary program for the future development of the 127 acre Naval Weapons Plant site, an area bounded by M Street, 1st Street and 11th Street, S.E., and the Anacostia River.

Mr. Dutton stated that the plan had been approved by the Planning Commission for discussion and presentation to the other federal and District of Columbia agencies concerned. It was prepared, first, as a part of the program for the development of a comprehensive plan for the District of Columbia for the year 1985, and, second, in response to a request from the Bureau of the Budget that a study be made of all federal land-holdings and sites in the National Capital Region. This study would be used in the development of master plans for all federal properties and will include recommendations with respect to land use and concepts of urban design.

Mr. Plavnick described the Commission's calculations of the

anticipated increase in Federal employees in the National Capital Region, the proposed distribution of the increase between the central part of the city and the remainder of the District and the region, and the assignment of the increase between the years 1985 and 2000. These calculations concluded that an approximate population of 40,000 persons could be assigned to the former Navy Yard area.

Mr. Steven Klaus, urban designer, discussed the site, its relationship to the city and existing conditions. On a small scale model and color slides of portions of it, he described in detail the various aspects of the proposed development plan such as traffic and pedestrian circulation, design concepts, including the creation of a residential area of eight acres, connections with transit facilities, underground parking, the location of buildings to create plazas, etc.

In executive session following the presentation the members expressed disapproval of many aspects of the plan and the general approach which it represented. They thought that the planning gave no recognition to the river; that the proposed circulation plan was confused and disorganized; that the concept of high-rise residential buildings in the area was highly questionable, etc. In short, it was their opinion that redevelopment of the site presented a rare opportunity to develop an important area of the city and, on the basis of the presentation made, that the services of professional planners outside of the Planning Commission staff were required.

It was concluded that the Chairman should send a letter to the Chairman of the Planning Commission setting forth this recommendation.

EXHIBIT H

b. Virginia Avenue, N.W. - Proposed Modification of Right-of-Way

Mr. W.C. Dutton, Director, and Mr. Donald Jackson, urban planner, presented plans for the modification of Virginia Avenue, N.W. from 19th Street to the Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway.

Mr. Dutton explained that the District Highway Department had proposed that Virginia Avenue be widened, and that the Planning Commission's Coordinating Committee had created a subcommittee of representatives of the National Park Service, the Highway Department and the Commission staff to prepare a special street development plan. The plan being presented had been approved by the Planning Commission as to details of highway widening and other street improvements, and the support of various agencies for proposed improvements outside of the right-of-way was being sought.

Mr. Jackson explained the design details of improvements to the

entrance to Virginia Avenue from the Rock Creek Parkway, a traffic ellipse at the intersection of New Hampshire Avenue and 25th Street, and landscaping improvements along the Avenue.

In the general discussion the members concluded that the proposed plan was inadequate in several aspects particularly the spacing of trees and paving, and that the Commission should recommend that a landscape architect outside of the Planning Commission staff be employed as a consultant.

III. LEGISLATION - Requests for Reports on Pending Bills by Committees of Congress and the Bureau of the Budget

1. H.J.Res. 793, 88th Congress

The Commission was requested by the Legislative Counsel's Office, Bureau of the Budget, to reconsider its unfavorable report on H.J.Res. 793, a bill authorizing the United Spanish War Veterans to erect a memorial in the District of Columbia, since it was the only unfavorable report on the legislation. The members were informed that it had been ascertained that no other agency had considered that a memorial to the Veterans of the Spanish-American War already existed in the District of Columbia. It was this fact which had been the basis of the adverse report. After agreeing that the Commission's position was well taken the members agreed that there was no valid reason for any change in the report.

2. H.J.Res. 934, 88th Congress

The Commission agreed to send an unfavorable report on H.J. Res. 934, which in substance would repeal the Act of June 1, 1910 that established the maximum height of buildings in the District of Columbia at 130 feet.

Thereafter, at 5:30 p.m., the meeting was recessed until 9:30 a.m. the following day.

Respectfully submitted,



C. L. Martin, Counsel

MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
17 March 1964

AM

10:15 I. CONVENE, ROOM 7000, INTERIOR DEPARTMENT BUILDING

II. ADMINISTRATION

1. Approval of Minutes of February 1964 Meeting
2. Date of Next Meeting:
Executive Session: 14 April 1964, 10:15 a.m.
Open Session: 15 April 1964, 9:30 a.m.
3. Appointment of new member to Old Georgetown Board
4. Fiscal Year 1965 Budget

III. SUBMISSIONS-REVIEWS-INTERVIEWS

1. Smithsonian Institution

National Zoological Park - Revised Development Plans, Phase II

11:30

2. National Capital Planning Commission

Landmarks Preservation Study, Proposed Building Inventory,
District of Columbia

(Mrs. James H. Rowe, Chairman, NCPC; Mr. W.C. Dutton, Director,
NCPC; Miss Mary Small, Special Assistant to the Director for
Community Relations, NCPC)

3. Treasury Department, Bureau of the Mint

St. Louis Centennial Medal - Proposed Design

4. Department of the Interior, National Park Service

- a. Garfield Park, F St. and Virginia Avenue between 1st and 3d Sts., S.E. - Development Plan
- b. Marion Park, F St. between 4th and 6th Sts., S.E.-Revised Development Plan
- c. Custis-Lee Mansion, Restoration of Flower Garden
- d. South Boundary Channel Bridge, Columbia Island-Proposed Design
- e. Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials - New Stair Railings

MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF TIME AND
17 March 1984

1. AGENDA

II. BUSINESS

1. Approval of Minutes of February 1984 Meeting
2. Date of Next Meeting:
Meeting Session 15 April 1984, 1:30 p.m.
Open Session 15 April 1984, 2:30 p.m.
3. Appointment of new member to Old Georgetown Board
4. Fiscal Year 1985 Budget

III. REPORTS

1. Executive Director

2. Finance and Administration

3. Planning and Development

1. Gary, James W. and Mary Ann, 1984, "The History of the National Park Service", National Park Service, Washington, D.C.

4. Special Studies and Reports

5. Other Business

6. Public Comments

a. Garfield Park, 1st. and 2nd. Avenue, Washington, D.C.

b. Madison Park, 1st. and 2nd. Avenue, Washington, D.C.

c. Constitution Avenue, Washington, D.C.

e. Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials - New State Buildings

5. District of Columbia Government

a. Department of Licenses and Inspections

Shipstead-Luce Act

- (1) Watergate Development, 2500 Virginia Avenue, N.W.-
Elevation drawings and materials
- (2) S.L. 64-93, 700 17th St, N.W. - New office building-
proposed design
- (3) S.L. 64-99, Northwest Corner of Virginia Avenue and
22d St., N.W. - New Apartment House
- (4) S.L. 64-100, 500 North Capitol St., N.W. - New office
building
- (5) S.L. 64-92, 415 12th St., N.W. - New office building

Old Georgetown Act

Building Applications - Appendix 1

b. Department of Highways and Traffic

Traffic Signs on Theodore Roosevelt Bridge & Approaches

3:00 p.m. 6. National Capital Planning Commission

a. Navy Yard (formerly Naval Weapons Plant)-Preliminary
Redevelopment Plan

b. Virginia Avenue, N.W. - Proposed modifications to right of wa

IV LEGISLATION

1. H.J.Res. 793-11/4/63-Mr.O'Hara-88thC

"Authorizing the United Spanish War Veterans to erect a memorial
in the District of Columbia."

2. H.J.Res.934-2/25/64-Mr.Kyl-88thC

"To provide for the rehabilitation of the commercial and residential
areas of the District of Columbia by means of zoning incentives without
resort to the Federal urban renewal program which has destroyed thou-
sands of small businessmen and has utterly failed to rehouse the slum
dweller despite the expenditure of more than \$100,000,000 in the
Nation's Capital, and the planned expenditure of many more millions
of dollars in Federal taxes."

6 April 1964

Dear Mr. Hartzog:

At its meeting on March 17, the Commission of Fine Arts considered a redevelopment plan for Garfield Park at F Street and Virginia Avenue, S.E., just north of the Inner Loop Freeway.

The plan was approved, with the recommendation that the paving be limited to a single material, providing a uniform treatment throughout the park.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

William Walton
Chairman

Mr. George B. Hartzog, Jr.
Director
National Park Service
Washington, D. C.

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3 April 1964

Dear Mr. Hartzog:

At its meeting on March 17, the Commission of Fine Arts considered the plans for restoration of the 19th Century flower garden formerly located south of the Custis-Lee Mansion.

Ordinarily we would not question details of such a project since the designs are based on historic data. In this instance, however, the proposed design includes a five foot high board fence around the entire garden, nearly 220 feet long and 100 feet wide.

Despite the fact that this fence may have existed in 1861, which is the period of restoration, we believe that such an extensive enclosure will be an intrusion into the open space around the Mansion, and should be omitted. A boxwood or cedar hedge would serve just as well to enclose the garden and would not disrupt the openness of the site. Such a hedge now surrounds the garden to the north of the Mansion.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

William Walton
Chairman

Mr. George B. Hartzog, Jr.
Director
National Park Service
Washington, D. C.

CONFIDENTIAL

On the morning of June 17, the President of the United States was shot while he was in the Lincoln Memorial.

Ordinarily we would not question the fact of such a tragedy since the history was known to all. However, in this case, the history was not known to all. The history was known to the few who were in the area at the time.

Despite the fact that this tragedy was known to all, it is the period of history, we believe that there are some tentative enclosures will be an interesting into the area. The history, and should be omitted. A record of other history would serve just as well to enclose the history and would not disrupt the operation of the city. Such a history can be found in the garden to the north of the Lincoln.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

William H. Taft

William H. Taft

Dr. James H. Taft, Jr.
Director
National Fine Arts
Commission, D.C.

3 April 1964

Dear Mr. Hartzog:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at its meeting on March 16, considered the design of the South Boundary Channel Bridge, which is to be part of the new system of roads to the west of Columbia Island and south of Arlington Memorial Bridge.

The Commission believes that the impact of the proposed bridge structure in this complex highway network should be minimized by eliminating the flanking masonry abutments at either end and treating the roadway as a continuous ribbon of structure. The area beneath the roadway up to the water's edge should probably be treated with concrete or stone in order to give it a finished appearance.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

William Walton
Chairman

Mr. George E. Hartzog, Jr.
Director
National Park Service
Washington, D. C.

Page 100

100

The following is a list of the names of the persons who have been named in the preceding pages of this report, in the order in which they were named.

The names of the persons who have been named in the preceding pages of this report, in the order in which they were named, are as follows:

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3 April 1964

Dear Mr. Hartzog:

At its meeting on March 16, the Commission of Fine Arts considered a proposal by the National Capital Region of the Park Service to install handrails on the entrance steps of the Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials.

The Commission does not favor this proposal.

We have carefully studied the design and location of the rails and believe that their addition mars the appearance of the memorials.

The steps leading to these memorials have been properly designed and as long as they remain in good repair, they do not constitute any special hazard, a fact that is borne out by the great number of people who visit the Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials without mishap.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

William Walton
Chairman

Mr. George B. Hartzog, Jr.
Director
National Park Service
Washington, D. C.

THE PROBLEM

THE PROBLEM

At its meeting on March 15, the Commission of the European Communities considered a proposal by the Council of Ministers to establish a European Centre for the Study of the History of the European Union.

The Commission has also been asked to consider the proposal.

It is now necessary to decide whether the Commission should accept the proposal and, if so, what form it should take.

The Commission has already decided to accept the proposal. It has also decided to set up a working party to study the proposal and to report to the Commission by the end of the year.

The Commission has also decided to set up a working party to study the proposal and to report to the Commission by the end of the year.

THE PROBLEM

THE PROBLEM

THE PROBLEM

27 March 1964

Dear Mr. Green:

At its meeting on March 17, the Commission of Fine Arts considered the design for an apartment building proposed at the Northwest corner of Virginia Avenue and 22d Street, N.W. on a site directly across from the headquarters building of the World Health Organization that is now under construction.

The Commission considers that the proposed design falls short of the standard of architecture expected for such an important location. In short the members felt that none of the qualities inherent in this type of building were expressed to advantage. The treatment of the elevations was divorced from the structure; and the arrangement of the bays, the proportions of openings and use of materials all appeared arbitrary. The siting of the building with its rear yard facing Virginia Avenue is open to serious question.

The Commission's next meeting is scheduled for April 15 and we would be glad to consider any new designs that applicants may want to present at that time.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

William Walton
Chairman

Mr. Julian P. Green
Assistant Superintendent of
Licenses and Permits
District Building
Washington, D. C. 20004

For the Commission of the European Communities

NOTES ON THE
REVISION

27 March 1964

Dear Mr. Green:

At its meeting on March 17 the Commission of Fine Arts considered the design of an 8-story office building proposed for 500 North Capitol Street, on an important site facing the monumental park area extending between the Capitol and Union Station.

The Commission believes that the proposed design is not suitable for this location because of its strongly commercial character. It fails to carry through the theme established by other buildings along Louisiana Avenue and Constitution Avenue where the emphasis has been on designs that reflect the special character of the location. The proposed building appears to lack this quality and would, in the Commission's view, be better suited to a district where the relation between building and site is more arbitrary.

Beyond the matter of general suitability, there also arose questions regarding the details of the design, such as the setback of certain bays, the pierced cornice line, the faceted window panels, etc., which seemed arbitrary and did not compose as a unified whole.

The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for April 15. We would be glad to meet with the architect and discuss this design or any new material he may have available at that time.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

William Walton
Chairman

Mr. Julian P. Green a conversation
Assistant Superintendent of
Licenses and Permits
District Building
Washington, D. C. 20004

EXHIBIT G

100-100000

Page 10, 100000

At its meeting on March 14 the Commission of Fine Arts
discussed the matter of the proposed building and the
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The Commission of Fine Arts has been on the subject of the
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The next meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts is scheduled for
April 12. We would be glad to meet with the architect and discuss this matter
or any new material he may have available at that time.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

William F. Brown
Chairman

Mr. William F. Brown
Assistant Superintendent of
Licenses and
District Building
Washington, D. C. 20004

14 C-1
3 April 1964

Dear Mrs. Rowe:

At our March meeting we heard a presentation from members of your staff on proposals for the old Naval Gun Factory site in Southeast Washington. Our Commission is pleased to be kept informed of such projects, the details of which some day may reach us for consideration, and I hope that our two Commissions can continue to cooperate on such matters.

I think it would be useful if we were completely frank and therefore I want to let you know that the Fine Arts Commission felt that the quality of planning displayed in these proposals was distinctly inferior. I won't go into it in detail now, but we can in conversation.

Among other things, the Commission felt that the presence of the river, one of the most attractive features of the site, was entirely ignored by the planners, and for another, that high rise housing units were introduced into the plan for no other reason than that they were faced with some unused land.

We think it would be wise to hire outside professional planners for projects of such importance to the future of the Nation's Capital.

With best wishes,

William Walton
Chairman

Mrs. James H. Rowe, Jr.
Chairman
National Capital Planning Commission
1701 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

P.S. Let's have a conversation about landmarks and you tell me what you want me to do.

EXHIBIT H

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON SHIPSTEAD-LUCE ACT SUBMISSIONS

3/16/64

PROJECT

NO ADDRESS AND OWNER

SL 64-

80 1900 F St., NW
 Geo. Wash. University
 ACTION: App'd., 2/5/64.

Convert exist. apt. to dormitory--exterior work on doorways & canopy.

81 2502 Calvert St., NW
 Shoreham Hotel Corp.
 ACTION: Ret'd. for subm. of plot plan showing relation of proposed bldg. to adjoining streets & public spaces, 2/11/64.

8-story limestone & brick apt. bldg.

82 2500 Va. Ave., NW
 Watergate Realty Co.

Excavate site as shown for Stage 1 constr. bldg. #2 & install caissons, footings, foundations & walls below El. 7.0 as shown on drawings. All work authorized under this approval to be entirely within lot lines.

ACTION: No obj. to issuing permit for excavation & foundations of Bldg. #2, exclusive of villas. Request revised foundation drawings, 1/17/64.

83 1740 Portal Dr., NW
 Zuse Honikman

New 2-story masonry single family dwell. Keep as much natural contours & trees as possible.

ACTION: Ret'd. for the subm. of photos. showing site & exist. trees, 2/11/64.

84 2070 Belmont Rd., NW
 Atlantic Realty Corp.

Rev. of Inf. SL 64-65. Install new windows, ornamental iron work, canopy & door per appl. SL 64-65 with required corrections directed by CFA.

ACTION: App'd., 1/27/64.

85 2500 Calvert St., NW
 Shoreham Hotel, Inc. (Ballrm.)

4 s-f tempo. constr. signs. 32 sq-ft each.

ACTION: App'd. for 1 s-f sign, parallel to Calvert St. midway on the property, 2/17/64.

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON SHIPSTEAD-LUCE ACT APPLICATIONS (Continued)

3/16/64

NO ADDRESS AND OWNER
SL 64-

PROJECT

86 1401 Penna. Ave., NW
Willard Hotel

1 lantern with sign to replace exist. light bulb & neon sign. Internally lighted with white fluor. lamps. White plex. faces with black ltrs.

ACTION: App'd., 2/18/64.

Inf.

87 200 Independence Ave., SW
National Reserve Officers Assn.
ACTION: See ltr. dtd. 3/11/64, 3/16/64.

Erect 2-story hqtrs. & memorial bldg.

88 2401 Calvert St., NW
H. G. Smithy Real Estate

ACTION: Ret'd. for indication of location. Also note that size, number of signs, & internal illumination do not conform to Bldg. Code limitations for Shipstead-Luce area, 2/13/64.

2 tempo. signs 5' x 8'. Plastic, illuminated.

89 2500 Virginia Ave., NW
Watergate Realty, Inc.

ACTION: Disap'd. See attached ltr. dtd. 3/11/64, 3/11/64.

13-story apt. house.

90 2620 Conn. Ave., NW
Safeway Stores, Inc.

ACTION: Ret'd. for determination as to jurisdiction of the Commission of Fine Arts, 2/18/64.

Replace front windows & doors.

Inf.

91 2700 Adams Mill Rd., NW
J.B. & Maurice C. Shapiro
ACTION: See ltr. dtd. 3/12/64, 3/16/64.

Rev. of Inf. SL 64-50. New 8-story masonry apt. bldg.

11 March 1964

Dear Mr. Doyle:

At its February 18 meeting the Commission of Fine Arts considered a design proposed by the Reserve Officers Association for its headquarters at 200 Independence Avenue, S.W. The Commission thought that the character of the design was inappropriate for this site.

On the positive side, the Commission members were glad to see the plans call for a relatively small building since the location and shape of the lot preclude anything large, such as a conventional office building. On the other hand, the architectural design lacks a memorial character and the round forms seem unrelated to the site, particularly the alternating open and closed bays. The members felt that the building appeared more mechanical than structural. Therefore, the Commission believed that a different approach to the program should be studied. The site itself should determine the character of the design and not be considered the place to drop an arbitrary form. It is a unique location and therefore very important to the general scheme of the Federal City as it spreads out at the foot of the Capitol.

If the architects wish to have any further conversation with the Commission we are always at their service. The architects might even want to read some of the detailed transcript of our session which considered their design.

With best wishes,

William Walton
Chairman

Mr. Phil A. Doyle
Executive Director
D.C. Redevelopment Land Agency
919 18th Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C.

11 March 1964

Dear Mr. Green:

I am returning application SL 64-89 with the disapproval of the Commission of Fine Arts. This action was taken at the Commission's meeting on February 18, 1964, at which time the members met with Mr. Cabor Acs, representing the Watergate Development, and discussed a number of revisions on the facades, notably the treatment of the balustrades and rails on the balconies, the panels dividing individual balcony apartment units, and the color of the exterior building materials.

We understand these details are being studied by the architect and will be submitted sometime in the near future.

In regard to the height, the revised design conforms in general to the 140' cornice line and 10' additional penthouse that was specified earlier. We must have plans and elevations of all roof structures, however, in order to be sure that they were lowered proportionately when the changes were made in the building height.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

William Walton
Chairman

Mr. J.P.Green
Assistant Superintendent of
Licenses and Permits
District Building
Washington 4, D. C.

12 March 1964

Dear Mr. Green:

The Commission believes that substantial progress is being made in designs for the apartment house development at 2700 Adams Mill Road, N.W.

The new plans, which were presented by Mr. Shapiro and his architect Mr. Meyers, at our meeting on February 18, were more open and less massive than earlier arrangements of the building, and showed promise of a suitable architectural treatment. Several suggestions were made regarding the variation of building heights, designs of auto entrances, balconies, and other details, which the architect said he would consider in developing further studies.

The owner was encouraged at the reaction to his plans, and said he felt he had a better building as a result of our meetings.

Sincerely yours,

C. H. Atherton
Assistant Secretary

Mr. J. P. Green
Assistant Superintendent of
Licenses and Permits
District Building
Washington, D.C. 20004



MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
18 MARCH 1964
INDEX

Page

SUBMISSIONS-REVIEWS-INTERVIEWS

1. District of Columbia Government, Dept. of Licenses
and Inspections
 - a. Watergate Development, 2500 Virginia Ave., N.W. 1-2
 - b. SL 64-92, 415 12th St., N.W.-New 12 story Office
Bldg.-Proposed design 2
 - c. SL 64-93, 700 17th St., N.W.-New Office Bldg.-
Proposed Design 3
2. Smithsonian Institution
National Zoological Park - Development Plan Phase 2 3-4
3. District of Columbia Government, Department of Highways
and Traffic
Traffic Signs on Theodore Roosevelt Bridge & Approaches 4

MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
18 March 1964

The Commission met, pursuant to notice, at 9:30 a.m., with William Walton, Chairman, presiding.

Present were: Members: William Walton
Gordon Bunshaft
Burnham Kelly
Theodore Roszak
Aline Saarinen
Hideo Sasaki

Staff: L.R. Wilson, Secretary
C.H. Atherton, Asst. Sec'y
C.L. Martin, Counsel
Myra Younker, Editor
Leone Vialpando, Reporter

SUBMISSIONS-REVIEWS-INTERVIEWS

1. District of Columbia Government, Department of Licenses and Inspections
 - a. Watergate Development, 2500 Virginia Avenue, N.W.

Mr. Gabor Acs, architect, representing Professor Luigi Moretti, and representatives of the Watergate Development Corporation, met with the Commission to discuss revised elevations and building materials for Building No. 2.

Mr. Acs showed the members several samples of precast concrete aggregate. Three sizes of aggregate - a large size to be used in the spandrels, a finer texture to be used in the balustrades, and the finest size for the dividing elements were shown. Samples of anodized aluminum for the window frames were also examined. The members thought the samples approached the desirable color but were not quite adequate and that additional samples should be submitted before a final decision was made.

The proposed designs for the balustrades on the facades were discussed. Mr. Acs stated that three types were proposed - Type A which consisted of two variations, Type B to be used on the first two floors, and Type C to be used on the remainder of the building. After a general discussion it was recommended that the balustrades be limited to one type to be selected by the architects.

The members suggested that the use of glass panels enclosed by railings would not provide a proper termination of the building, that the railing should be moved back from the building edge and the fascia

of the penthouse roof strengthened to express the top of the building.

The members requested that detailed elevations and plans of all roof structures be submitted.

The Chairman was authorized to send a letter giving the Commission's views. EXHIBIT A

b. S.L. 64-92, 415 12th Street, N.W. - New 12-story Office Building - Proposed Design

Mr. Edmund Dreyfuss, architect, and Mr. Julian P. Green, Assistant Superintendent of Licenses and Permits, met with the Commission to discuss the designs for the building.

Mr. Dreyfuss stated that the building would be constructed of reinforced concrete with a limestone veneer and would have a three-story subterranean parking garage. He added that the building had been set back 30 feet from the lot lines.

In the general discussion the members stated that they thought the flat facades with punctured windows were dull and uninteresting and lacked the quality of distinction which a new structure on as important a street as Pennsylvania Avenue should have. This was particularly true in light of efforts being made by the Advisory Council on Pennsylvania Avenue to revitalize the Avenue since the structure will occupy a most prominent position. In reply Mr. Dreyfuss defended the design by stating that the designers had taken into consideration recent structures in the area erected by the Federal Government of a similar character, and that the result was a compromise between what existed and what the architects would like to do.

The members urged that the architect submit new studies of a structure which would have a textural and other scale qualities that would harmonize with its neighbors.

Mr. Dreyfuss asked if the Commission would approve the general massing of the structure so that the owner could begin construction of the subterranean work, pending the submission of new studies of the elevations. In executive session it was agreed that such approval should not be given by the Commission inasmuch as the granting of a foundation permit was the prerogative of the D.C. Department of Licenses and Inspections. Mr. Green stated that in the event that a foundation permit application was filed it would be forwarded to the Commission for comment.

The Chairman was authorized to send a letter setting forth the Commission's recommendations. EXHIBIT B

c. S.L. 64-93, 700 17th St., N.W.-New Office Building-Proposed Design

Mr. Edmund Weihe, architect, explained revisions to the design of the building, which included recession of the two top stories and alignment of the 17th Street facade with the street.

In the general discussion the members criticized several aspects of the design which they characterized as typical of the commercial office buildings in Washington, but of questionable value in a structure located on such a prominent site near the Executive Office Building and the White House. Specifically, they objected to the curtain wall facades, the design of the loggia on the eighth floor, and the treatment of the arcade on the first floor.

The architect was asked to restudy the design and submit the results at a later date.

The Chairman was authorized to send a letter setting forth the Commission's recommendations.

EXHIBIT C

2. Smithsonian Institution

National Zoological Park - Development Plan Phase 2

Dr. Theodore Reed, Director, National Zoological Park, and Mr. David Dimon, architect, presented details of Phase Two of a proposed development plan for the Zoo.

Dr. Reed explained the uses of the various structures in terms of the manner of displaying the animals and their requirements for shelter in various seasons of the year.

Mr. Dimon explained the changes to the circulation pattern of walkways and described the materials and architectural character of the building planned.

In the general discussion the members agreed that the revisions to the circulation system of pathways had met all their previous objections. However, they seriously questioned the justification for the great variety of shapes and materials of construction in the buildings. They particularly questioned the use of natural stone in some buildings and concrete block in others. They suggested that all of the structures should be treated as part of one family of buildings with variations to suit special purposes rather than as individual buildings of greater or lesser importance. It was recommended that a material such as concrete or concrete aggregate be used throughout and that the architecture be a simple system with necessary variations.

The Chairman was authorized to send a letter setting forth the Commission's recommendations.

EXHIBIT D

3. District of Columbia Government, Department of Highways and Traffic

✓ Traffic Signs on Theodore Roosevelt Bridge and Approaches

Mr. T.F. Airis, Director of the Department of Highways and Traffic, Mr. Francis Twiss, Director of the Traffic Bureau, and Mr. William Haussmann, consulting architect, presented drawings of proposed directional signs to be erected on the approaches to the bridge, the bridge itself, the Inner Loop Freeway and the E Street Expressway.

Mr. Twiss explained the location of the signs and the type to be utilized. Mr. Haussmann explained suggested designs for the supports.

The members were particularly concerned about the arched-double-armed sign which would span the bridge near Theodore Roosevelt Island and the Lincoln Memorial and would therefore be extremely conspicuous. It was suggested that the directional information contained on this sign be divided into two signs which could then be staggered and located with one post support in the median strip of the roadway rather than spanning it. Mr. Airis replied that Interstate Highway Regulations would not permit a post to be located in the median strip because of its narrow width. It was then suggested that a straight post system be utilized with a light truss and a solid panel on both sides which would carry the required traffic information.

The Chairman was authorized to send a letter setting forth the Commission's recommendations.

EXHIBIT E

Thereafter, at 12 o'clock noon, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

C. L. Martin

C.L. Martin, Counsel

MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
18 March 1964

AM

9:30 I. CONVENE, ROOM 7000, INTERIOR DEPARTMENT BUILDING

II. SUBMISSIONS-REVIEWS-INTERVIEWS

1. District of Columbia Government, Department of Licenses
and Inspections

9:35 a. Watergate Development, 2500 Virginia Avenue, N.W.

(Mr. Julian P. Green, Asst. Superintendent of Licenses
and Permits; Mr. Milton Fischer, architect; Mr. Gabor
Acs and representatives of Watergate Development)

10:00 b. S.L. 64-92, 415 12th St., N.W. - New 12-story office
building - Proposed Design

(Mr. Green; Mr. Edmund Dreyfuss, architect)

10:30 c. S.L. 64-93, 700-17th St., N.W., New Office Building -
Proposed Design

(Mr. Green; Mr. Edmund Weihe, architect)

11:00 2. Smithsonian Institution

National Zoological Park - Development Plan

(Mr. James Bradley, Assistant Secretary, Smithsonian Inst.;
Dr. Theodore Reed, Director, National Zoological Park;
Mr. James Blaser, Director, D.C. Dept. of Buildings and
Grounds; Mr. David Dimon, architect)

11:30 3. District of Columbia Government, Department of Highways & Traffic

Traffic Signs on Theodore Roosevelt Bridge and Approaches
(Mr. Francis E. Twiss, Director of Highways)

REPORT OF THE COMMISSION OF THE ARTS
TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

11:30	1. District of Columbia Government, Department of Highways & Traffic Traffic Signs on Theodore Roosevelt Bridge and Approaches (Mr. Francis E. Twiss, Director of Highways)
11:30	2. National Association of Architects + Development Plan National Association of Architects + Development Plan Mr. James H. Hays, Director, U.S. Dept. of Buildings Mr. James H. Hays, Director, U.S. Dept. of Buildings Mr. James H. Hays, Director, U.S. Dept. of Buildings
12:00	3. National Association of Architects + Development Plan National Association of Architects + Development Plan Mr. James H. Hays, Director, U.S. Dept. of Buildings Mr. James H. Hays, Director, U.S. Dept. of Buildings Mr. James H. Hays, Director, U.S. Dept. of Buildings
12:30	4. National Association of Architects + Development Plan National Association of Architects + Development Plan Mr. James H. Hays, Director, U.S. Dept. of Buildings Mr. James H. Hays, Director, U.S. Dept. of Buildings Mr. James H. Hays, Director, U.S. Dept. of Buildings
1:00	5. National Association of Architects + Development Plan National Association of Architects + Development Plan Mr. James H. Hays, Director, U.S. Dept. of Buildings Mr. James H. Hays, Director, U.S. Dept. of Buildings Mr. James H. Hays, Director, U.S. Dept. of Buildings
1:30	6. National Association of Architects + Development Plan National Association of Architects + Development Plan Mr. James H. Hays, Director, U.S. Dept. of Buildings Mr. James H. Hays, Director, U.S. Dept. of Buildings Mr. James H. Hays, Director, U.S. Dept. of Buildings
2:00	7. National Association of Architects + Development Plan National Association of Architects + Development Plan Mr. James H. Hays, Director, U.S. Dept. of Buildings Mr. James H. Hays, Director, U.S. Dept. of Buildings Mr. James H. Hays, Director, U.S. Dept. of Buildings
2:30	8. National Association of Architects + Development Plan National Association of Architects + Development Plan Mr. James H. Hays, Director, U.S. Dept. of Buildings Mr. James H. Hays, Director, U.S. Dept. of Buildings Mr. James H. Hays, Director, U.S. Dept. of Buildings
3:00	9. National Association of Architects + Development Plan National Association of Architects + Development Plan Mr. James H. Hays, Director, U.S. Dept. of Buildings Mr. James H. Hays, Director, U.S. Dept. of Buildings Mr. James H. Hays, Director, U.S. Dept. of Buildings
3:30	10. National Association of Architects + Development Plan National Association of Architects + Development Plan Mr. James H. Hays, Director, U.S. Dept. of Buildings Mr. James H. Hays, Director, U.S. Dept. of Buildings Mr. James H. Hays, Director, U.S. Dept. of Buildings
4:00	11. National Association of Architects + Development Plan National Association of Architects + Development Plan Mr. James H. Hays, Director, U.S. Dept. of Buildings Mr. James H. Hays, Director, U.S. Dept. of Buildings Mr. James H. Hays, Director, U.S. Dept. of Buildings
4:30	12. National Association of Architects + Development Plan National Association of Architects + Development Plan Mr. James H. Hays, Director, U.S. Dept. of Buildings Mr. James H. Hays, Director, U.S. Dept. of Buildings Mr. James H. Hays, Director, U.S. Dept. of Buildings
5:00	13. National Association of Architects + Development Plan National Association of Architects + Development Plan Mr. James H. Hays, Director, U.S. Dept. of Buildings Mr. James H. Hays, Director, U.S. Dept. of Buildings Mr. James H. Hays, Director, U.S. Dept. of Buildings
5:30	14. National Association of Architects + Development Plan National Association of Architects + Development Plan Mr. James H. Hays, Director, U.S. Dept. of Buildings Mr. James H. Hays, Director, U.S. Dept. of Buildings Mr. James H. Hays, Director, U.S. Dept. of Buildings
6:00	15. National Association of Architects + Development Plan National Association of Architects + Development Plan Mr. James H. Hays, Director, U.S. Dept. of Buildings Mr. James H. Hays, Director, U.S. Dept. of Buildings Mr. James H. Hays, Director, U.S. Dept. of Buildings

3 April 1964

Dear Mr. Green:

The following recommendations were made to Mr. Achs and Mr. Fischer representing the Watergate development at the Commission's meeting on March 17, 1964. The recommendations are relative to Building No. 2.

- . The balustrades on the facades should be limited to one type, the selection to be proposed by the architect.
- . The fascia of the penthouse roof should be visually strengthened to express the top of the building.
- . The railing on the roof should not be considered as a design motif but moved back from the building edge, and diminished in importance.
- . Further material samples should be submitted for approval of color and texture.

The Commission also repeated its previous request to see detailed elevations and plans of all structures on the roof.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

William Walton
Chairman

Mr. Julian P. Green
Assistant Superintendent of
Licenses and Permits
District Building, Washington D.C.

405. 12-1

For the Commission of 1944-45:

0-7-10-11-12-13

27 March 1964

Dear Mr. Green:

I am writing to confirm the action taken by the Commission of Fine Arts at its meeting on March 18, at which time it disapproved an application for an office building proposed at 415 12th Street, N.W.

As you know from having attended the meeting, the Commission members discussed their views in detail with the architect of the project, Mr. Dreyfuss, and I do not believe it is necessary to repeat them here. In simple terms the Commission is asking that the design recognize and reflect in its architecture the importance of a setting on Pennsylvania Avenue.

The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for April 15. We will be glad to consider any new material the architect may have ready by that time.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

William Walton
Chairman

Mr. Julian P. Green
Assistant Superintendent of
Licenses and Permits
District Building
Washington, D. C. 20004

[illegible]

The next meeting is scheduled for April 12, 1968. We will be glad to consider any new material for publication.

April 6, 1964

Dear Mr. Green:

I am writing to confirm the action taken by the Commission of Fine Arts at its meeting on March 17th regarding the design of the office building proposed at 700-17th Street, N. W.

As you know, the Commission asked the architect to restudy several aspects of this design. Primarily, the members were concerned by the arbitrary quality of the facade and its relation to the structure of the building. The architect himself acknowledged that the proposed scheme was one of several preliminary designs that had been applied to basically the same structural system. Such "curtain wall" construction is widely used on commercial office buildings without any particular regard to location, and the members believe it should not be used here. The materials of the exterior should be kept simple and recognize the important public buildings in the area. The proposal to use recessed bronzed-aluminum strips did not appear to be consistent with this view.

Secondly, the Commission questioned the suitability of using a loggia at the eighth floor as a device for carrying through the 90-foot line at the cornice of the building. The columns and the cornice appeared unnecessarily heavy and seemed to detract from the scale and proportions of the rest of the facade.

Thirdly, the treatment at the first floor also appeared arbitrary and did not seem to give the desired effect of an arcaded base to the building. It looked as though the masonry window panels used on the other floors had merely been omitted and glass substituted instead. In the Commission's opinion, the treatment of the base of the building looked unfinished and should also be carefully restudied.

On the positive side, the revisions the architect had made to the mass of the building since the presentation in January appeared to improve the design considerably. Recessing the top two stories on the western portion of the building and aligning the facade with 17th Street helped to unify the form and establish a better relationship between the building and the site.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

Mr. Julian P. Green
Ass't. Superintendent of
Licenses & Permits
106 District Building
Washington, D. C. 20004

William Walton
Chairman

EXHIBIT C

6 April 1964

Dear Mr. Ripley:

At its meeting on March 18, the Commission of Fine Arts reviewed the architectural designs for new animal displays that are to be constructed as part of the development program at the National Zoological Garden.

The members were concerned over several different forms and materials and types of architecture that are contemplated for the new buildings. There were flat roofs, pitched roofs, and in one instance a combination of both. Natural stone was used on some buildings while others employed concrete block or board siding. We believe this will present a confused and cluttered scene and will disrupt the continuity that is desirable in a series of visual displays. The number of materials should be limited to one or two, and the architectural forms be given a unified appearance.

Specifically the Commission recommended that the architects study a concrete treatment that could take the place of both the natural stone and the cinder block, and be somewhere between the costs of the two materials. This alone would help to relate the various buildings considerably.

Secondly, the forms should be simplified and more closely related in terms of profile. The various requirements for interior spaces can still be met with structures of basically the same type and appearance.

Details affecting the relation between the observer and the displays should also be carefully studied. On the roofs of the hoofed stock enclosures, for example, which also serve as viewing terraces, the spaces for pedestrian circulations around the skylights were cramped and should be enlarged.

The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for April 14-15. We would be glad to consider any revisions the architect may have ready by that time.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

William Walton
Chairman

Mr. S. Dillon Ripley
Secretary
The Smithsonian Institution
Washington, D. C.

3 April 1964

Dear General Duke:

At its meeting on March 17, the Commission of Fine Arts considered designs and locations for the traffic signs proposed for the approaches to the new Theodore Roosevelt Bridge, the "E" Street Expressway and the Inner Loop Freeway.

The Commission believes that the standard signs and supports employed by the Bureau of Public Roads on other parts of the Interstate Highway System are not appropriate for this special location in Washington. The signs should be as unobtrusive as possible with simple lines and proportions and subdued in color.

We suggested several changes to Mr. Airis of the Department of Highways, and Mr. Haussmann, the Department's architectural consultant, and they have agreed to present revised designs at the April meeting of the Commission.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

William Walton
Chairman

Brigadier General C. M. Duke
Engineer Commissioner for the
District of Columbia
District Building
Washington 4, D.C.

Page 10

CONFIDENTIAL

On the morning of April 17, the President of the United States, Dwight D. Eisenhower, and his wife, Mrs. Eisenhower, were in the White House. They were in the White House when the President received a telephone call from the Vice President, Richard M. Nixon. The Vice President was in the White House when the President received the call. The Vice President was in the White House when the President received the call.

The President and the Vice President were in the White House when the President received the call. The President and the Vice President were in the White House when the President received the call. The President and the Vice President were in the White House when the President received the call. The President and the Vice President were in the White House when the President received the call. The President and the Vice President were in the White House when the President received the call.

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The President and the Vice President were in the White House when the President received the call.

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CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
14 April 1964

INDEX

Page

I. ADMINISTRATION

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| 1. Approval of Minutes | 1 |
| 2. Date of Next Meeting | 1 |

II. SUBMISSIONS-REVIEWS-INTERVIEWS

- | | |
|--|-----|
| 1. <u>Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers</u> | |
| Modernization of the National War College at
Ft. Leslie J. McNair | 1-2 |
| 1500 Man Dormitory, Bolling Air Force Base | 2-3 |
| 2. <u>National Park Service, National Capital Region</u> | |
| a. Lansburgh Park, Model of Pavilion-Proposed Design | 3 |
| b. South Boundary Channel Bridge-Revised Design | 3 |
| 3. <u>District of Columbia Government</u> | |
| a. <u>Department of Buildings and Grounds</u> | |
| (10 New Elementary School, 18th & E Sts., N.E. | 3-4 |
| (2) New Junior High School, 16th & Irving Sts. | 4 |
| (3) New Library, 24th & L Sts., N.W. | 4-5 |
| b. <u>Department of Licenses and Inspections</u> | |
| <u>Shipstead-Luce Act</u> | |
| (1) New Office Building, 700 17th St., N.W. | 5 |
| (2) New 12-Story Office Building, 415 12th St. | 5-6 |
| (3) New Office Building, 500 N. Capitol St, NW | 6 |
| (4) New Apartment House, Virginia Ave. & 22d
St., N.W. | 6 |

(5) New Apartment Bldg, 2502 Calvert St., N.W.	6-7
(6) Watergate Development, 2500 Va. Ave.	7
(7) Building Applications, Appendix 1	7
Old Georgetown Act	
Building Permit Applications, Appendix II	7
4. <u>English Speaking Union</u>	
Statue of Sir Winston Churchill-Proposed Site	8
5. <u>District of Columbia Government</u>	
<u>Department of Highways & Traffic</u>	
Traffic Signs for Theodore Roosevelt Bridge and Approaches-Revised Designs	8-9
6. <u>General Services Administration, Public Bldgs Service</u>	
a. Smithsonian Institution, National Air Museum - Proposed Design	9-10
b. Smithsonian Institution, Museum of History and Technology-Design of Proposed Sculpture	10
c. F.O.B., Gainesville, Fla.-Selection of Artist	10
7. <u>District of Columbia Government</u>	
<u>Department of Licenses and Inspections</u>	
Projected Office Building at 3d St. & Constitution Avenue, N.W.	10-11

III.LEGISLATION

a. National Air Museum	//
b. Water Resources Education Building	//

